

This record is a partial extract of the original cable. The full text of the original cable is not available.

281055Z Aug 05

UNCLAS SANAA 002451

SIPDIS

DEPARTMENT FOR NEA, NEA/ARP, NEA/PD, NEA/RA, DS/OP/NEA AND  
S/CT  
CENTCOM FOR POLAD

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [OIIP](#) [KMDR](#) [PHUM](#) [PTER](#) [KISL](#) [YM](#)

SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION ON AL MOAYAD'S SENTENCING IN U.S.  
FEDERAL COURT TO 75 YEARS IN PRISON.

NEA/PPD FOR AFERNANDEZ

**1. SUMMARY:** There is increasing public reaction in Yemen to the July sentencing of Al-Moayad to 75 years in prison by a U.S. federal court for providing material support to terrorism. Although there is less attention devoted by government media to the case, independent and party-affiliated newspapers continue to address it and to cover public activities held in solidarity with Al Moayad. A rising criticism of the U.S. court system appears in the local media, chiefly in opposition and independent papers and papers affiliated with opposition parties. Overall, the sentencing of Al-Moayad is viewed by Yemeni media as evidence of a lack of justice in the U.S. judicial system with many predicting that the sentencing will further inflame anti-U.S. sentiment in Yemen. END SUMMARY

**2.** Independent papers and those affiliated with opposition parties reported on a major gathering of sheikhs, dignitaries, and seniors of Al-Moayad's Khawlan tribe and on their statement calling for the immediate release of Al-Moayad and asking President Saleh to put Al Moayad's case at the top of his agenda for his November visit to Washington. The newly established independent weekly Annida (08/04) accused the Government of not working hard enough for Al-Moayad's release saying: "Had the regime been more serious about the Al-Moayad case, Al-Moayad would have been released a long time ago." The English language independent Yemen Times, a biweekly, published an opinion piece entitled, "For the Love of Israel," which argued that the trial of Sheikh Al-Moayad "has proven once again that...the United States is now also the official lynch man for the Zionist state. ...Originally, starting as a case of anti-terrorism post 9/11, the case, based on relatively weak allegations of aiding Hamas, ended ultimately as no more than another free service to Israel."

**3.** Opposition media, including Al Sahwa Net ([www.alsahwa-yemen.net](http://www.alsahwa-yemen.net)), website of major opposition Islah party, and other news websites, highlighted (8/01) a statement released jointly by political parties and some civil society organizations condemning the sentencing of Sheikh Al Moayad in a statement which stated that the case, "will inflame anti-US sentiments." Pro-opposition newspapers commented that the verdict "has exposed" the U.S. Administration's "claims about the independence of its judicial system." "The verdict was based on preconceived assumptions magnified by post-9/11 sentiments," according to the independent weekly Annas (circulation 15,000; 8/01).

**4.** Independent newspapers carried a statement by Yemeni clerics urging President Saleh to work diligently so the U.S. releases Sheikh Al-Moayad and his associate; moreover, they urged all political forces, leaders, and Yemeni civil society organizations to continue advocating, "until their demands are met," for their release and return.

KRAJESKI